

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system for ordering software modules in a guaranteed order for execution. Unique values are statically assigned to software modules (e.g., filter drivers) when fully developed. Each module's assigned value determines its relative position to other modules in a stack or other arrangement, fixing the execution order for any set of filter drivers. Static values may comprise floating-point numbers, whereby each new software module may be assigned a number that enables positioning it between any two existing software modules. For example, filter drivers may be generally classified and assigned values in a range according to type. Drivers of the same type may be ordered within their general range to guarantee one possible ordering. A filter manager architecture is described, in which filter drivers register with a manager for relevant file system I/O operations. The manager calls appropriately registered filter drivers in an order based on their assigned numbers.

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